

CABLE AND COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/27/2010

Location: Council Office Building, Conference Room #225

Committee Attendance: Mark Berman, Jay Boyar, Kelly Cameron, Jose Zegarra Holder, Bing Kung, Treffaney Lowe, Grant Moy, Suzanne Weiss and Noreene Wells. **Absent:** Alex Cohen, Trish Evans, Mona Hall McKenzie and Ben Wu. **PEG:** Merlyn Reineke. **Cable Office Staff:** Mitsuko Herrera and Keith Watkins.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Review and approval of the agenda.
- Review, corrections noted and approval of meeting minutes.

PEG Presentation

- Merlyn presented the committee with an updated presentation of Access Montgomery's Operational Plan which was previously presented to MCT employees and members of the MCT Board.

Cable Office Report

- Mitsuko announced two filings submitted with a third one under way to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) regarding the National Broadband Plan. First, the County submitted on behalf of consumers, a summary of cable complaints, deployment and construction violations received from consumers. The second filing addressed the pricing impact for consumers for cable devices/boxes and urged the FCC to continue to resolve the issue of technical standards as they relate to the integration of devices used for both video and broadband services. The third filing will be submitted by national municipal associations urging the FCC not to limit right-of-way fees to costs as part the national broadband plan. Local governments can still afford additional funding cuts at this time and local governments use these right-of-way fees to provide broadband to schools, for public safety communications and other broadband for government services.
- At the request of a senator and delegate from the Maryland General Assembly, the County is assisting in the drafting of a bill that will require cable providers to offer their equipment for sale to consumers rather than monthly rental fees. [UPDATE: This bill was filed on 2/17/10 and is available at <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/hb/hb1203f.pdf>]
- The first Teen Town Hall meeting will be held in Rockville and will be televised live on Wednesday, February 3rd.
- The preliminary cable plan has been submitted to MFP (Management and Fiscal Policy) Committee. A meeting is scheduled on February 8th and another meeting is scheduled some time in March to discuss 2nd quarter performance. [Due to snow, this meeting has been rescheduled to March 22, 2010.]
- The digital PEG study is in final draft form, changes were made to reflect project FY11 numbers.
- Keith brought to the committee's attention the article published in today's Gazette regarding a dispute between the residents of Montgomery Village home owners association and their complaints regarding Verizon's construction.
- Complaints have been steady but the Cable Office is receiving a high volume of calls since Comcast's recent migration of channels from the analog tier.

Old Business

- The annual report is available for viewing on Google and changes can still be made to the document.
- Keith reported there has been no word on the vacancies for the City of Rockville or the Maryland Municipal League. Suzanne suggested that this is a topic that should be addressed during the meeting with the County Executive.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
- Next committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Office Building, 13th Floor Conference Room.

Submitted by: Andrea Gardner, Office Services Coordinator